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Peace, security and reunification on the Korean peninsula

Letter dated 18 November 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am sending you the present letter regarding the irresponsible utterances of the Secretariat of the United Nations by which it has recently aligned itself with the unilateral allegation of the United States of America on the "nuclear issue" of the Korean peninsula.

To begin with, I extremely regret to say that high-ranking officials of the United Nations Secretariat are making thoughtless statements, which aggravate the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and provide no assistance towards a proper solution of the issue, by expressing "concern", for no good reason, without specific confirmation, without urging implementation of the safeguards agreement, and the like, immediately after the United States announced that "north Korea admitted its nuclear development".

As far as the "nuclear issue" on the Korean peninsula is concerned, it originated as the United States has massively stockpiled nuclear weapons in south Korea and its vicinity and threatened the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a small country, with those weapons for nearly half a century, pursuing its hostile policy of stifling the country.

In October 1994, the Agreed Framework was adopted between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States in order to address the "nuclear issue" smoothly. Since then, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been implementing its obligations under the Agreed Framework in good faith.

Under the Agreed Framework, the United States is obliged to provide two light water reactors to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by 2003 in return for the freezing of graphite moderated reactors and their related facilities by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in order to facilitate a move towards full normalization of political and economic relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and to give it formal assurances against the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

In compliance with the Agreed Framework, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has frozen graphite moderated reactors and their related facilities, and has consequently suffered an extensive loss of electrical capacity during the past eight years. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has thus fully carried out its obligations under the Agreed Framework.

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The United States, however, has only recently started the ground concrete tamping for the light water reactors which are to be finished by 2003. In particular, it has persistently pursued a hostile policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and has threatened it, even listing it as part of the "axis of evil" and a target of United States pre-emptive nuclear strikes.

All the facts show that it is actually the United States that is in flagrant violation of the Agreed Framework between the two countries.

In this respect, I wish to remind you that the present statement is expounded upon in the statement of the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, dated 25 October 2002.

The United States is now trying to invent an excuse for its pre-emptive attack misleading public opinion into thinking that the Agreed Framework places an obligation of implementation only on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and accusing it of non-fulfilment of its obligations, thus infusing the international atmosphere with pressure.

Owing to the undisguised United States threats of aggression and a pre-emptive nuclear strike, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has increased its self-defensive capability and has made all preparations for coping with the United States pre-emptive nuclear attack, fully in accord with the purpose and principle of the Charter of the United Nations, and as an exercise of sovereignty in its legitimate self-defence.

I regard it as an expression of a double standard and of prejudiced behaviour, departing from objectivity and impartiality, to talk one-sidedly about the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which defends its most valuable sovereignty and its right to existence while keeping silent about the arrogant arbitrariness by the United States, an offender.

I express once again my deep regret that the Secretariat of the United Nations sidesteps the obvious fact that the United States is trying to reverse the situation on the Korean peninsula and in north-east Asia by creating a nuclear fuss at the very point in time when relations between north and south of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan have entered a new phase, in particular, as a result of the positive efforts of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

If the Secretariat of the United Nations wants peace and stability on the Korean peninsula in earnest, it should approach the "nuclear issue" on a fair and impartial basis, not following the unilateral assertion of the United States that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea constitutes a "threat", and should encourage the conclusion of a non-aggression treaty between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States as the best way to bridge over the grave situation created on the peninsula due to the threats posed by the United States.

I would like to request that the text of the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session under agenda item 56.

(*Signed*) **Pak** Gil Yon
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Permanent Representative